UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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10/612,025	07/02/2003	Kevin T. Chan	14885US01	5831

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2609	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/27/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/612,025	CHAN, KEVIN T.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mon Cheri S. Davenport	2609	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>02 July 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date *11/03/2003.*

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Action is in response to the Application filed July 2, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement file on November

3, 2003 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449 form or

PTO/SB/08A and 08B forms).

Specification

3.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Paragraph

[01] needs to be updated with serial number, date, and status (publication number if

published) of cited application.

        Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of
> matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the
> conditions and requirements of this title.

2.   **Claims 11-20** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is

directed to non-statutory subject matter.

        Regarding Claims 11-20, the claimed machine-readable storage is nonstatutory

subject matter since it's not a machine, manufacture, process, or composition of matter.

See MPEP 2160(IV)(B)(1).

        Claims 11-20 lacks the proper preamble language for statutory computer

program product. See MPEP 2100 for guidance on computer related inventions.

        The examiner suggest a preamble as follows:

"A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions to

perform a method, the method comprising:" Correction is required.

Double Patenting

3.   The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created
doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the
unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent
and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees.   A nonstatutory
obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims
are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct
from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated
by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140
F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29
USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir.
1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422
F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163
USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).
        A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d)
may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory
double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to
be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of
activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.
        Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a
terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with
37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 11 and 21 provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory

obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 11, and 21 of

copending Application No. 10/612,729 in view of Bontemps et al. (US Patent Number

5,923,663).

Claim 1 of instant application, claim 1 of copending application 10/612,729, while

disclosing a method for providing and configuring communication links, the method

comprising:

determining any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs;

selecting any one channel from all existing channels; and

assigning said selected any one channel to said any one media pair. ,

does not teach said selected any one channel being different from a general channel

assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair;

Bontemps et al. teaches a method in the same field of media interface,

comprising a control circuit, is provided that toggles the selected circuit between the first
and second states until a link detect signal indicates the reception of communication
signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid
communication signals were detected *(see column 3, lines 58-62,).*

It would have been obvious to modify claim 1 of application 10/612,719 to include

the limitation of selected any one channel being different from a general channel

assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair as taught by

Bontemps et al. because the optimal solution is to achieve the appropriate

communication link automatically, regardless of cable type (see column 3, lines 29-41).

Claim 11 of instant application, claim 11 of copending application 10/612,729,

while disclosing, a machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer

program having at least one code section for providing and configuring secure

communication links, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for

causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

determining any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first

device;

selecting any one channel from all existing channels,; and

assigning said selected any one channel to said any one media pair.

does not teach said selected any one channel being different from a general channel

assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair;

said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment

corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair

Bontemps et al. teaches a method in the same field of media interface,

comprising a control circuit, is provided that toggles the selected circuit between the first

and second states until a link detect signal indicates the reception of communication

signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid

communication signals were detected *(see column 3; lines 58-62).*

It would have been obvious to modify claim 11 of application 10/612,719 to

selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment

corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair as taught by Bontemps et

al. because the optimal solution is to achieve the appropriate communication link

automatically, regardless of cable type (see column 3, lines 29-41).

Claim 21 of instant application, claim 21 copending application 10/612,729, while

disclosing, a system for providing and configuring secure communication links, the

system comprising:

at least one controller adapted to determine any one usable media pair from all

existing media pairs;

at least one selector adapted to select any one channel from all existing

channels, and

said at least one controller adapted to assign said selected

any one channel to said any one media pair.

does not teach said selected any one channel being different from a general

channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair;

Bontemps et al. teaches a method in the same field of media interface,

comprising a control circuit, is provided that toggles the selected circuit between the first
and second states until a link detect signal indicates the reception of communication
signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid
communication signals were detected *(see column 3, lines 58-62).*

It would have been obvious to modify claim 21 of application 10/612,719 to

selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment

corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair as taught by Bontemps et

al. because the optimal solution is to achieve the appropriate communication link

automatically, regardless of cable type (see column 3, lines 29-41).

This is a <u>provisional</u> obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public
use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United
States.

5.   **Claims 1-30** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bontemps

et al. (US Patent Number 5,923,663)

Regarding **claim 1** Bontemps et al. discloses a method for providing and
configuring secure communication links, the method comprising:

determining any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first
device;

selecting any one channel from all existing channels, said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair; and

assigning said selected any one channel to said any one media pair*(see column 3, lines 58-62, A control circuit is provided that toggles the selected circuit between the first and second states until a link detect signal indicates the reception of communication signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid communication signals were detected)*.

Regarding **Claim 2**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 1). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising notifying a second device of said assigned any one channel which corresponds to said any one media pair *(see column 4, lines 5-6, a physical layer device within an external data device such as a DTE device(second device), continually transmit communication signals)*.

Regarding **Claim 3**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 2). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising cross-connecting a corresponding channel and media pair for said second device, said cross-connected channel and media pair being equivalent to said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair*(see column 4, lines 7-11, the DTE (second device) device may include an internal crossover connection, or a crossover cable may be used for the communication link, so that the transmitted signals may be transmitted to either the first or second contacts sets of the port connector)* .

Regarding **Claim 4**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 1). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising negotiating said assignment of said selected any one channel to said any one media pair *(see column 4, lines 14-18, the toggle function of a media detection system according to the present invention periodically and continuously toggles the receive inputs of the local physical layer device between the contacts sets of the connector so that the communication signals are eventually detected)*.

Regarding **Claim 5**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 1). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising selecting from a plurality of predetermined channel and media pair assignments, a particular one of said channel and media pair assignment *(see column 3, lines 58-63, the control circuit is provided that toggles the select circuit between the first and second states until a link detect signal indicates reception*

of communication signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid communication signals were detected).

Regarding **Claim 6**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 1). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising:

designating a first combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a communication channel and media pair; and

designating a second combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a control channel and media pair *(see column 4, lines 62-65, the physical layer device to the appropriate contacts of the ports connector for performing a straight-through connection in one state (first combination) and a crossover connection in another state(second combination))*

Regarding **Claim 7**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 6). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising securely transferring communication traffic via said communication channel and media pair*(see column 4, lines 5-7, the physical layer device within a external data device such as a DTE device, continually transmits communication signals, such as link or data pulses).*

Regarding **Claim 8**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 7). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising securely transferring control information via at least one of said communication channel and media pair*(see column 4, lines 5-7, the physical layer device within a external data device such as a DTE device, continually transmits communication signals, such as link or data pulses).*

Regarding **Claim 9**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 8). In addition, the method includes:

further comprising:

monitoring at least one of said communication channel and media pair by a second device ; and

determining said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair*(see column 5, lines 31-36, physical layer device (second device), monitoring for communication signals in each of the first and second states of the select logic until valid communication signals are detected, and holding the select logic in one of the first and second states in which a link detect signal indicates detection of valid communication signals).*

Regarding **Claim 10**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 9). In addition, the method includes:

wherein said control information is at least one of authentication information, encryption information, channel setup information and link provisioning and link maintenance information*(see column 4, lines 21-34, the frequency of the toggling function depends upon the particular protocol and the definition of the communication signal to be detected. An Ethernet PHY device determines a valid link sequence after between 3 and 11 consecutive pulse are received).*

Regarding **claim 11** Bontemps et al. discloses a machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for providing and configuring secure communication links, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

determining any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first device;

selecting any one channel from all existing channels, said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair; and

assigning said selected any one channel to said any one media pair*(see column 3, lines 58-62, A control circuit is provided that toggles the selected circuit between the first and second states until a link detect signal indicates the reception of communication signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid communication signals were detected).*

Regarding **Claim 12**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 11). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising code for notifying a second device of said assigned any one channel which corresponds to said any one media pair*(see column 4, lines 5-6, a physical layer device within an external data device such as a DTE device(second device), continually transmit communication signals).*

1 Regarding **Claim 13**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 12). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising code for cross-connecting a corresponding channel and media pair for said second device, said cross-connected channel and media pair being equivalent to said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair*(see column 4, lines 7-11, the DTE (second device) device may include an internal crossover connection, or a crossover cable may be used for the communication link, so that the transmitted signals may be transmitted to either the first or second contacts sets of the port connector) .*

Regarding **Claim 14**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 11). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising code for negotiating said assignment of said selected any one channel to said any one media pair*(see column 4, lines 14-18, the toggle function of a media detection system according to the present invention periodically and continuously toggles the receive inputs of the local physical layer device between the contacts sets of the connector so that the communication signals are eventually detected).*

Regarding **Claim 15**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 11). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising code for selecting from a plurality of predetermined channel and media pair assignments, a particular one of said channel and media pair assignment*(see column 3, lines 58-63, the control circuit is provided that toggles the select circuit between the first and second states until a link detect signal indicates reception of communication signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the particular state in which valid communication signals were detected).*

Regarding **Claim 16**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 11). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising:

code for designating a first combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a communication channel and media pair; and

code for designating a second combination of said channel assigned to said any one media pair as a control channel and media pair*(see column 4, lines 62-65, the physical layer device to the appropriate contacts of the ports connector for performing a straight-through connection in one state (first combination) and a crossover connection in another state(second combination)).*

Regarding **Claim 17** Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 16). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising code for securely transferring communication traffic via said communication channel and media pair *(see column 4, lines 5-7, the physical layer device within a external data device such as a DTE device, continually transmits communication signals, such as link or data pulses).*

Regarding **Claim 18**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 17). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising code for securely transferring control information via at least one of said communication channel and media pair *(see column 4, lines 5-7, the physical layer device within a external data device such as a DTE device, continually transmits communication signals, such as link or data pulses)*.

Regarding **Claim 19**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 18). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

further comprising:

code for monitoring at least one of said communication channel and media pair by a second device; and

code for determining said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media pair*(see column 5, lines 31-36, physical layer device (second device), monitoring for communication signals in each of the first and second states of the select logic until valid communication signals are detected, and holding the select logic in one of the first and second states in which a link detect signal indicates detection of valid communication signals)*.

Regarding **Claim 20**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 19). In addition, the machine-readable storage includes:

wherein said control information is at least one of authentication information, encryption information, channel setup information and link provisioning and link maintenance information *(see column 4, lines 21-34, the frequency of the toggling function depends upon the particular protocol and the definition of the communication signal to be detected. An Ethernet PHY device determines a valid link sequence after between 3 and 11 consecutive pulse are received)*.

With respect to claims 21-30, it is noted that the language used by Applicant merely suggests or makes optional those features described as "adapted to"; such language does not require steps to be performed nor limits the claim to a particular structure. In re Hutchison, 69 USPQ 138. See MPEP 2111.04.

Regarding **claim 21** bontemps et al. discloses a system for providing and configuring secure communication links, the system comprising:

at least one controller adapted to determine any one usable media pair from all existing media pairs of a first device;

at least one selector adapted to select any one channel from all existing channels, said selected any one channel being different from a general channel assignment corresponding to said determined any one usable media pair; and

said at least one controller adapted to assign said selected any one channel to said any one media pair *(see Figure 3, port circuit, see column 12, lines 34-46, see*

*column 3, lines 58-62, A control circuit is provided that toggles the selected
circuit between the first and second states until a link detect signal indicates the
reception of communication signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in
the particular state in which valid communication signals were detected).*

Regarding **Claim 22**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 21). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one controller is adapted to notify a second device of said
assigned any one channel which corresponds to said any one media pair*(see Figure 2,
element 218, PHY device, see column 4, lines 5-6, a physical layer device within
an external data device such as a DTE device(second device), continually
transmit communication signals).*

Regarding **Claim 23**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 22). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one selector is adapted to cross-connect a corresponding
channel and media pair for said second device, said cross-connected channel and
media pair being equivalent to said selected any one channel assigned to said any one
media pair *(see Figure 2, element 218, PHY device, see column 4, lines 7-11, the
DTE (second device) device may include an internal crossover connection, or a
crossover cable may be used for the communication link, so that the transmitted
signals may be transmitted to either the first or second contacts sets of the port
connector).*

Regarding **Claim 24**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 21). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one controller is adapted to negotiate said assignment of
said selected any one channel to said any one media pair*(see Figure 2, element 214,
select logic, see column 4, lines 14-18, the toggle function of a media detection
system according to the present invention periodically and continuously toggles
the receive inputs of the local physical layer device between the contacts sets of
the connector so that the communication signals are eventually detected).*

Regarding **Claim 25**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 21). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one selector is adapted to select from a plurality of
predetermined channel and media pair assignments, a particular one of said channel
and media pair assignment *(see Figure 2, element 214, select logic, see column 3,
lines 58-63, the control circuit is provided that toggles the select circuit between
the first and second states until a link detect signal indicates reception of
communication signals. The control circuit holds the select circuit in the
particular state in which valid communication signals were detected).*

Regarding **Claim 26**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 21). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one selector is adapted to:

designate a first combination of said channel assigned to said any one media
pair as a communication channel and media pair; and

designate a second combination of said channel assigned to said any one media
pair as a control channel and media pair*(see Figure 2, element 218, PHY device, see
column 4, lines 62-65, the physical layer device to the appropriate contacts of the
ports connector for performing a straight-through connection in one state (first
combination) and a crossover connection in another state(second combination))*.

Regarding **Claim 27**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 26). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one controller is a adapted to transfer communication traffic
via said communication channel and media pair*(see Figure 2, element 218, PHY
device, see column 4, lines 5-7, the physical layer device within a external data
device such as a DTE device, continually transmits communication signals, such
as link or data pulses)*.

Regarding **Claim 28**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 27). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said at least one controller is a adapted to transfer control information
via at least one of said communication channel and media pair*(see Figure 2, element
218, PHY device, see column 4, lines 5-7, the physical layer device within a
external data device such as a DTE device, continually transmits communication
signals, such as link or data pulses)*.

Regarding **Claim 29**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above
(see claim 28). In addition, the system includes:

wherein at least one controller associated with a second device is adapted to:

monitor at least one of said communication channel and media pair by a second
device; and

determine said selected any one channel assigned to said any one media
pair*(see Figure 2, element 218, PHY device, see column 5, lines 31-36, physical
layer device (second device), monitoring for communication signals in each of
the first and second states of the select logic until valid communication signals
are detected, and holding the select logic in one of the first and second states in
which a link detect signal indicates detection of valid communication signals)*.

Regarding **Claim 30**, Bontemps et al. discloses everything as claimed above (see claim 29). In addition, the system includes:

wherein said control information is at least one of authentication information, encryption information, channel setup information and link provisioning and link maintenance information*(see Figure 2, element 222 and 224, mode control circuit and clock circuit, see column 4, lines 21-34, the frequency of the toggling function depends upon the particular protocol and the definition of the communication signal to be detected. An Ethernet PHY device determines a valid link sequence after between 3 and 11 consecutive pulse are received).*

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Dove et al. (US Patent Number 6,175,865) disclose an apparatus for

automatically configuring network media connections;

Coffey (US patent Number 6,684,347) discloses a method and system for MDI

crossover control;

Romano et al. (US Patent Number 6,661,805) see abstract.

Conclusion

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Mon Cheri S. Davenport whose telephone number is

571-270-1803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. -

5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano can be reached on 571-272-7925. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MD/md
February 6, 2007

ELISEO RAMOS-FELICIANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER